



**NEWS RELEASE**

March 18, 2010

**Kirwan Institute March Race-Recovery Index Notes Recovery Disparities**

- The overall national unemployment rate remained steady at 9.7 percent from January to February 2010.
- Unemployment among Black men increased by two-tenths of a percentage point, although unemployment rates decreased for Blacks overall.
- Unemployment rates for Whites overall and White women in particular both rose by a fraction of a percentage point.
- Small businesses, women-owned and minority-owned businesses continue to receive a disproportionately small share of federal Recovery Act contract funds. For instance, although 5.2 percent of U.S. business are Black-owned, Black-owned businesses had received only 2.9 percent of ARRA contracts and 2.4 percent of contract dollars, as of March 5, 2010.

This information and more can be found in the March version of the Race-Recovery Index from the Kirwan Institute, now available at:

[http://www.kirwaninstitute.org/download/publications/race-recovery\\_mar2010.pdf](http://www.kirwaninstitute.org/download/publications/race-recovery_mar2010.pdf)

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